

Obeying God Rather Than Man

Acts 4:13-22.

Sunday morning, September 27, 2009.

I. "And they realized that they had been with Jesus." Vs. 13.

A. Peter and John had answered the council as the question by what power or in what name they had healed the lame man. Vs. 7.

1. They had done so with great boldness, calling attention to the fact that this same

Sanhedrin had condemned the Lord Jesus Christ to death.

2. They answered with great wisdom, reasoning from the Scriptures about the stone which they as builders had rejected, and which now had become the chief cornerstone.

3. This called the whole Sanhedrin to humility and repentance.

B. The Sanhedrin realized that they were dealing with uneducated and untrained men.

1. Men who had not been instructed in the learning of the Jewish schools.

2. Men who had led private lives.

3. Men who were unaccustomed to being in the center of public proceedings.

C. They were amazed.

They were amazed at the spirit and the wisdom with which these men conducted themselves.

D. They realized that they had been with Jesus.

1. They recognized the boldness and spirit with which they were being dealt with. It was the same spirit that had confronted them in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Little wonder that they should recognize this spirit. It was none other than the Holy Spirit that had filled the Lord Jesus, and equipped Him for ministry at

His

baptism. The same Holy Spirit had now come and filled the hearts of His disciples at Pentecost.

Application:

What a testimony to these witnesses that it could be said of them that it was obvious that they had been with Jesus!

Can this be said about you?

For this to be the case we have to spend time with Jesus.

How do we do that?

1. In His word; do you familiarize yourself with the pages of God's word?

2. In prayer; Do you seek His kingdom and His will in prayer?

3. By being an active part of His people; Do you give yourself to the fellowship of the people of God?

4. In our thoughts, our meditations; Is the Lord Jesus Christ often on your mind and in your thoughts? Do you go to sleep with Him in your thoughts; do you wake up with Him on your mind.

5. In our desires; What do you want most for your life? What is your greatest aspiration

and desire? Is it to know Him and to walk with Him?

II. "...they could say nothing against it." Vs. 14-18.

- A. The same truth is repeated once more in the private deliberations of the Sanhedrin. "...that a notable miracle has been done through them is evident to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we can not deny it." Vs. 16.
- B. Why would they want to say something against it, or deny it?
 - 1. This is nothing but the plotting of evil hearts.
 - 2. It reveals hearts that are not primarily concerned with truth, but rather with their own agenda.
 - 3. They are hearts that must have their own will and way above anything else.
- C. The truth of the miracle and message of the lame man's healing called the Sanhedrin to the place of humility and repentance, but they would have none of it.
- D. Grace and Truth had stood before the Sanhedrin in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ, and they wanted none of it.

Now grace and truth stand before the Sanhedrin a second time in the persons of the healed lame man and the two apostles, and they still harden their hearts and want none of it. What remained for the Sanhedrin was the truth of Prov. 29:1 "He who is often rebuked and hardens his neck will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy."

Application:

Have you come to grips with the truth of the resurrected and reigning Jesus Christ?

Have you come to the place of humility and repentance before Him and His people?

Are you merely studying the truths of the kingdom or have these truths fundamentally changed you on the inside?

Are you putting it off, or are you resisting this transforming work so that you may remain in charge, and be the master of your own destiny?

The Sanhedrin was their own worst enemy. Their pride and willfulness kept them from any and all gospel blessings, and it sealed their own judgment to them.

What about you; who is your worst enemy, and what is your worst enemy?

III. "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge."

- A. The Sanhedrin could not oppose the witness of the apostles, for the lame man stood right in front of them and all Jerusalem was aware of the miracle. So they seek to silence the witness, thus showing their disdain for the truth, and further filling up the measure of their iniquity.
- B. This was a religious court; hence the nature of the question that the apostles put to them. Was not the Sanhedrin already listening to man, that is the evil dictates of their own hearts, more than to God? This statement should have produced conviction in their hearts.

Application:

Whose voice do you listen to most; the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking in the Scriptures, or the dictates of the desires of your own heart? Do you silence the witness of

the Holy spirit as did the Sanhedrin?